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HOUSE BILL 2975

By Godsey

AN ACT to amend Chapter 84 of the Private Acts of 1991; as amended by Chapter 140 of the Private Acts of 1996 and Chapter 132 of the Private Acts of 1998; and any other acts amendatory thereto, relative to the City Council of the City of Bristol.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Chapter 84 of the Private Acts of 1991; as amended by Chapter 140 of the Private Acts of 1996 and Chapter 132 of the Private Acts of 1998; and any other acts amendatory thereto, is amended by deleting Section 2-1 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 2-1. A governing body for the city shall be known as the "City Council of the City of Bristol." The City Council shall consist of five (5) persons who shall be elected by the eligible voters of the city at-large. No person shall be eligible to the office of councilman unless the person has been a resident of the city and a citizen of Tennessee for at least a year prior to such person's election, and is at least twenty-one (21) years of age. No person who holds any kind of an office, executive, judicial, or

legislative, under the United States, the State of Tennessee, Sullivan County, or an employee of the City of Bristol shall be eligible to the office of councilman.

SECTION 2. Chapter 84 of the Private Acts of 1991; as amended by Chapter 140 of the Private Acts of 1996 and Chapter 132 of the Private Acts of 1998; and any other acts amendatory thereto, is amended by deleting Section 2-2 in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Section 2-2.

(a) The election for such office shall be held on the third Tuesday in May in each odd-numbered year thereafter as seats become vacant and terms expire, and this shall be the date for the general city election. The terms of office for councilmen shall be four (4) years. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes for the available council seats shall be declared to be elected. In order to stagger their terms, candidates elected for three (3) at-large councilmen seats who were elected to a four (4) year term from Council Districts (1), (3) and (5) in the 2001 election shall be elected at the same time in the 2005 election, and every four (4) years thereafter, and candidates for the two (2) remaining seats who were elected at-large in the 1999 election for a four (4) year term shall be elected at the same time in the 2003 election for a four (4) year term and every four (4) years thereafter. The term of each councilman shall begin on the date of the next regular city council meeting in July following such councilman's election. All councilmen shall be eligible for reelection.

(b) The foregoing amendments shall become operative for the next general city election to be held in 2003.

(c) Nothing in this act shall be construed as having the effect of removing any incumbent from office or abridging the term of any official prior to the end of the term for which such official was elected.

SECTION 3. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of the City of Bristol. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the legislative body and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective as provided in Section 3.